



## Ten Things You Should Know About Motorcycling

1. Motorcycling is FUN! Many women feel free, alive, and empowered riding their motorcycles. There is a grace to the lean of a motorcycle in the corner, the power as you accelerate out of a curve. The feel of wind on your face and sun on your back. You can smell the trees, shrubs, and rivers as you glide along. Freedom. Remember how you felt when you were 10 years old and got that bicycle with streamers on the handlebars and your new-found freedom to go where ever you desire? It's like that. Only better!
2. There are many ways to enjoy motorcycling and many different styles of motorcycles. There are motorcycles built for pavement and road riding. There are motorcycles built for off road dirt riding. And there are motorcycles built for dual purpose- both on and off road. Road riding motorcycles include cruiser, sport, and touring styles of motorcycles. Off road motorcycles include competition race bikes, trail bikes, and trials bikes. Dual sport motorcycles range in size from small and nimble to large touring style adventure bikes. Whatever your tastes, there is a bike for you.
3. If you can ride a bicycle, you can ride a motorcycle. My great nephew and niece both started riding small 50cc (cubic centimeters measures engine size) mini-bikes with training wheels when they were two years old. When they reached the age of about 4 and half and they were able to ride bicycles without training wheels, we also removed the training wheels from the mini-bikes. On the other end of the spectrum, I once taught a 60 something woman to ride a motorcycle. She did great! She said it made her feel like a kid again and she could not wipe the grin off her face!
4. Motorcycling is affordable. Because new riders tend to improve dramatically, I usually recommend they buy a used "beginner level" motorcycle to begin with. After a year or so, you will likely be ready for a bigger, more capable motorcycle. I prefer that riders learn to ride on the dirt. Dirt riding is safer and more forgiving than road riding. Dirt riding has the bonus of being more dynamic and quickly builds more skill than road riding. Smaller entry level used dirt bikes can be purchased for as little as \$1500. New entry level dirt bikes can be purchased for as little as \$4000. Yes, you can spend \$35,000 on a new motorcycle. But that is not how I recommend you start. Start small, develop skill, figure out the kind of motorcycling that appeals to you, and then invest in a more expensive option.
5. ATGATT is an abbreviation for "All The Gear All The Time." Riders who choose not to wear helmets and **motorcycle specific safety gear** are at risk. Some road riders wear minimal safety gear. Are they more concerned about how they look than safety? ADVWoman recommends full faced helmets, gloves, jacket and pants with body armor, and boots.
6. According to Motorcycle Industry Council statistics, 25% of all RIDERS are women. To grow the sport, the motorcycle industry must engage women and families. Many motorcycle

**Pat Jacques**  
**970.726.6830**  
**ADVWoman.com**  
**pat@advwoman.com**



manufacturers are actively marketing to women. When women ride, the whole family rides. Motorcycles are being built that are a better fit for our tastes and physical needs. Quality women's gear is more readily available too; tailored for our physiques!

7. Despite progress, the motorcycle industry is still dominated by men. Some women feel uncomfortable the first time they walk into a motorcycle dealership. There are many different motorcycles to choose from and sometimes sales people overlook women. Fortunately, motorcycle people are usually friendly and eager to share their passion! Ask a friend who rides to do a "field trip" with you to a local dealer or call the dealer ahead of time and ask if they have any female staff to help you. There are many women's social riding groups who welcome new riders and those who are "curious" and want to know more. If you can't find a friendly face in your area, reach out to me. I will find someone to help!
8. I've met some of the nicest people on the planet riding a motorcycle. Forget the old-time image of leather clad hooligan gangs terrorizing decent folks. Motorcycling transcends all barriers and lines. Accountants, artists, moms, grandmothers, students, young, old, republican, democratic, ethnicity, nationality; all seemingly differences fade. Motorcycling is a passion and lifestyle that transcends all. "Wind sisters and brothers" share a common bond that "cage drivers" (car drivers) simply do not understand. It's like the saying, "If I have to explain it, you wouldn't understand."
9. Relative to a motorcycle, cars are safer. Being safe on a motorcycle means being properly trained, wearing proper gear, and riding mindfully and smart. Just because a rider passes her "motorcycle endorsement test" and is licensed to ride a motorcycle on the road, does not mean that rider is an expert. On the contrary, that rider is a novice. Continuing education and **professional** training is wise and fun. According to the Motorcycle Industry Council, 60% of all female riders obtain professional training while only 20% of male riders receive professional training. Learning to ride from "Uncle Bob" might not be in your best interests. Learning to ride from a trained professional makes you a better, more skilled rider with a better chance of avoiding accidents.
10. There is a difference between a "Women's class" and a "class of women." Women's bodies are different than men, we learn differently, and we develop confidence differently than men. ADVWoman is the only motorcycle training company where women are the focus. All ADVWoman instructors are women. We understand how different riding is for women. We teach skills in a way that best supports women. And yes, we work with spouses and partners. Getting both of you on the same page leads to more harmonious and enjoyable riding. For questions and to sign up for our free newsletter, please go to <http://advwoman.com/contact/>

**Pat Jacques**  
**970.726.6830**  
**ADVWoman.com**  
**pat@advwoman.com**